Schemes for welfare of minorities

*428. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of minorities, especially for Muslims;

(b) the funding of each project during the last three years, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the plan prepared for the current Five Year Plan as to the measures and welfare of Muslim minorities, so far, in consultation with the Planning Commission; and

(d) the transparency in each scheme being implemented in Andhra Pradesh for the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The following plan schemes and programmes are implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the welfare of minority communities, which includes Muslims:

(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme;

(ii) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme;

(iii) Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme;

(iv) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme;

(v) Multi-sectoral Development Programme for Minority Concentration Districts:

(vi) Schemes implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation:

(vii) Schemes implemented by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation;

These schemes/programmes have been prepared in consultation with Planning Commission for implementation in the current Five Year Plan. The State-wise details of financial assistance given under these schemes, including Andhra Pradesh are available on the website of the Ministry *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in*. The schemes are being implemented in a transparent manner.

Non-availability of form 49(O) at polling booths

*429. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, forms 49(O) were not provided at a large number of polling booths in the recent general elections for the benefit of voters wanting to express their disapproval of the candidates contesting the elections, as per the media reports published in a section of the press;

(b) if so, the estimated number of booths in the country which were not having these forms; and